

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 09746 171558Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 171530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 9746

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: DEMIREL EFFORTS TO FORM CENTER-RIGHT COALITION WINS SUPPORT
FROM INDEPENDENTS

REF: ANKARA 9670

1. THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL TO FORM A "NATIONALIST FRONT" OF CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES RECEIVED A BOOST DECEMBER 16 WHEN FIVE OF THE SIX INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT, BRINGING THE POTENTIAL PARLIAMENTARY VOTES FOR THE COALITION TO 218, SIX VOTES SHORT OF THE 224 NEEDED TO GUARANTEE WINNING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. (THREE SEATS OF THE 450-SEAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE NOW VACANT.)

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 09746 171558Z

2. DEMIREL, IN A DECEMBER 16 STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, POINTED

OUT THAT AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY WAS NOT NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FORM A GOVERNMENT (ONLY A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING), AND THAT THE NATIONALIST FRONT WAS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT GO SO FAR AS TO STATE THAT HE WAS READY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT YET, INDICATING ONLY THAT IF A MAJORITY COULD BE FOUND HE WOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: DEMIREL'S APPARENT HESITANCY TO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO DESIGNATE HIM TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IS PROBABLY BASED ON FACT THAT THE POTENTIAL OPPOSITION, BARRING A SPLIT IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP), CONTROLS AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. DEMIREL MAY ALSO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE COHESIVENESS OF HIS FOUR-PARTY COALITION. NEVERTHELESS, HAVING ALREADY STATED PUBLICLY THAT EARLY ELECTIONS ARE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IF A CENTER-RIGHT COALITION CANNOT BE ASSEMBLED, DEMIREL MAY WELL BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON HIS INITIATIVE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR TO HIS SUPPORTERS THAT HE HAS TRIED HARD AND THAT SUCCESS IS IMPOSSIBLE. IT MAY ALSO BE TRUE THAT, AS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) CHAIRMAN BOZBEYLI RECENTLY CHARGED, DEMIREL HOPES TO CAUSE A SPLIT IN THE DP, WHICH HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTES NEEDED FOR A PRO-DEMIREL MAJORITY (REFTEL). IN ANY EVENT, HIS CONTINUING EFFORT PROBABLY CAN HELP ASSURE THAT THE DP RECEIVES THE BLAME FOR FRUSTRATING THE HOPE OF MANY CONSERVATIVES FOR A CENTER-RIGHT COALITION. IF THE COALITION CANNOT BE FORMED THIS WEEK, THE HOLIDAY PERIOD (KURBAN BAYRAM AND NEW YEAR, BEGINNING AT NOON DECEMBER 23 AND CONTINUING WITH ONE INTERRUPTION UNTIL JANUARY 2) COULD PROVIDE A CONVENIENT TIME TO LET THE EFFORT DROP.

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